

AIRLIFT **Dispatch**

Vol. 42, No. 42

437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, October 24, 2003



From the top

Photo by Senior Airman Tyrone Pearsall

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray speaks to the First Six at the Robert Gaylor Dining Facility Oct. 17. Chief Murray visited Charleston AFB Oct. 16-17 and gave base airmen his view from the top. For a full story on Chief Murray's visit, see Pages 12-13.

HOMECOMING

**16 AS returns home
after 90 days overseas**

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IN MEMORY

**Airman repatriated from
Vietnam after 35 years**



Pages 8-9

FOOTBALL

**MXS ends AMXS'
winning streak Oct. 16**



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MISSION POSSIBLE!

Charleston departures	15,792
Maintenance reliability	93.7%
Cargo moved	106,487 t
Personnel deployed	642
Reservists activated	968

(Jan. 1 2003-Oct. 8, 2003)

Team Charleston: One family, one mission, one fight!

COMMENTARY

Commander's Comments

By Col. Brooks Bash
437AW commander

Help me extend a warm welcome to **Lt. Gen. Michael Zettler**, the deputy chief of staff for Installations and logistics, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., who will be visiting us today. General Zettler is responsible to the chief of staff for leadership, management and integration of Air Force civil engineering, communications operations, services, supply, transportation, maintenance, and munitions policies and resourcing to enhance productivity and combat readiness while improving quality of life for Air Force people.

Farewell

We will also be saying farewell this week to **Col. Tommy Hixon**, our previous 437th Maintenance Group Commander, who has served in the Air Force for 27 years, and **Chief Master Sgt. David Champagne**, 437th AMXS superintendent, who has served in the Air Force for nearly 31 years.

Wing Quarterly Award winners

Congratulations to this quarter's wing award winners. They are **Capt. Raymond Lewis**, 437th Medical Group; **1st Lt Brian Wolken**, 437th Mission Support Group; **Senior Master Sgt. Michael David**, 437 MSG; **Staff Sgt. Aubrey Buhr**, 437th Airlift Wing; **Airman 1st Class Heidi Hunter**, 437 MSG; **Rhonda Perry**, 437 MSG; **Jack Roberts**, 437 MSG; and **Senior Airman Sean Lambert**, 437 MSG.

Officer education selections

A hearty congratulations to **Lt. Col. Stephan Shope**, 15th Airlift Squadron; **Lt. Col. Steven Groenheim**, 14th Airlift Squadron; and **Lt. Col. Gary Goldstone**, 16th Airlift Squadron, who were selected for senior development education.

In addition, **Maj. James Copher**, 437th Operational Support Squadron; **Maj. Jeffrey Ward**, 437th Airlift Wing; **Maj. Mark Kruse**, 15th Airlift Wing; **Maj. Micheal Seiler**, 437th Operational Support Squadron; **Maj. Keith Thibodeaux**, 437th Airlift Wing; **Maj. James Cole**, 16th Airlift Squadron; **Maj. Paul Bauman**, 437th Operational Support Squadron; **Maj. John Donahue**, 437th Operations Group; and **Maj. Gary Wettengel**, 437th



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jason Bailey

Col. Brooks Bash, 437th Airlift Wing commander, gets a flu shot Wednesday. The Department of Defense requires all military members to be vaccinated with the flu shot every year to help prevent illness during winter months.

Operational Support Squadron; were selected for the intermediate development education.

Inspection team

We are hosting a Department of Defense-sponsored national Chemical Weapons Convention Mock Challenge Inspection exercise which began Thursday and runs through Oct. 31. The exercise will validate the Air Force CWC inspection process and train U.S. Government CWC inspectors. The exercise should not affect normal daily operations; however, traffic exiting the base will be monitored as part of the exercise beginning Monday.

Monster Bash Dash

Thanks to everyone who joined me at the Wing Fun Run Tuesday. We have had a great turn out with more than 400 people there. Keep up the enthusiasm!

Safety

For those celebrating Halloween this year, please be safe. Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep your decorations away from open flames and heat sources, including light bulbs, heaters, etc. When lighting candles inside of jack-o-lanterns, use long, fireplace-style matches and be sure to place lit pumpkins away from combustible items. Instead of candles, use flashlights as alternatives when decorating walkways or yards. Have fun, and be safe!

Action line: Joggers left in the dark will see the light

Q: I am inquiring about the lighting on the running track (McCombs Way). Due to the new physical fitness requirements mandated by the Air Force, we have to get in shape. This includes a run or walk several times a week. For those of us on swing- or mid-shifts, the only time we can get a good practice run in is after hours. The lights at the track turn off at midnight. This is an unwelcome surprise when you are a half mile into the run

The Commander's Action Line is your direct link to me. It's your opportunity to make Charleston AFB a better place to live, work and play.

First, give the appropriate base agency a chance to solve the problem, but if you don't get a satisfactory answer, call me at **963-5581**, or send an e-mail to action@charleston.af.mil.

To ensure you receive a response to your concerns, please leave your name and the information needed to contact you.



Col. Brooks Bash
437 AW commander

and are in the woods behind the golf course and base housing. It is pretty dark back there, and it would be easy for someone to get hurt. Could you

look into having the timer reset for the lights to stay on all night and turn off in the morning? I realize we should conserve energy on the base in

every way possible, but I think personal safety takes a higher priority.

A: Thank you for bringing this issue to our attention. We all agree that safety should always be in everyone's mind. Effective today, the lighting timers will be set to remain on during the hours of darkness. If you have any further questions, please contact the 437th Civil Engineer Service Call at 963-5027.

— Col. Brooks Bash
437 AW commander

America's airmen deliver 16 AS airmen perform at tip of the spear

By Lt. Col. Gary Goldstone
16AS commander

The members and aircraft of the 16th Airlift Squadron returned to Charleston AFB at 1616 hours Oct. 16, after more than 100 days deployed as the 817th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron.

Our main operating location was at Rhein Main AB, Germany. We also operated detachments at Al Udeid, Qatar; Ramstein AB, Germany; Le Tube AB, France; Zaragoza AB, Spain; and Pisa, Italy. The entire deployment can be summed up in one word ... "Phenomenal!"

That is the consistent remark we heard from the many military and political leaders who were able to see Team Charleston at work overseas.

Team Charleston's warriors and the 16 AS have clearly demonstrated why we are first to get the call when America needs airlift at the tip of the spear!

The 16 AS maintained 24/7 combat operations while launching more than 2,300 combat missions, which carried more than 40,000 short tons of cargo and more than 21,000 troops.

Maintainers, refuelers, aerial porters, security forces, ground supporters, crew communication troops and air crews worked hand-in-hand to accomplish the mission.

The entire deployed team did this incredible work while averaging 35 crews on station at Rhein Main AB, and 27 mission launches a day.

We peaked at more than 50 crews on station and more than 38 mission launches per day, which comes out to more than 3,000 crews and well beyond 15,000 crew members!

What kind of missions did the 16 AS execute? Where to? Who did we support? Here are a few of the significant missions to highlight the 16 AS and Team Charleston's simply outstanding performance while running the 817 EAS.

The 817 EAS executed multiple missions to

worth repeating

"You are a key player on America's team and a part of the world's greatest, most capable Air Force."



—Lt. Col. Gary Goldstone
16th Airlift Squadron commander

Sierra Leone, Senegal and Dakar to support operations in Liberia. We flew Paul Bremer, the U.S. ambassador, and Gen. John Abizaid, U.S. Central Command commander, into Iraq. We flew 10 missions to take French peacekeepers into Afghanistan. We hauled 400 Spanish police to Kuwait.

We took the Air Mobility Command Vice Commander Lt. Gen. John Baker into Baghdad and Al Udeid. We flew special diplomatic missions from Mongolia to Afghanistan.

We flew Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld during his Southwest Asia tour, and we carried the AMC Director of Operations Maj. Gen. Roger Brady, from the area of operations. We have done all of this while maintaining an incredible pace at Frankfurt, Germany, Al Udeid and Ramstein, along with short-notice stage locations in Spain, France and Italy.

Is this a big deal? You bet! Maintenance, aerial port, fliers and security police redefined the word teamwork. Kudos to everyone for such flawless mission execution.

While continuing to fulfill all of the Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom taskings, the 16 AS and Team Charleston continue to write the book on C-17 combat operations. There is no doubt why CAFB is considered the center of gravity for combat airlift.

I continually remind the 16 AS team they are, indeed, part of a special team making

history. It is as simple as that.

Each and every one of you is part of a special crowd who wrote the books during the Berlin Airlift, the Burma-China Hump and Operation Desert Storm.

You are a key player on America's team and a part of the world's greatest, most capable Air Force.

Savor these times. The war stories you are part of today will be what you tell your children and grandchildren for many years.

There is no doubt in my mind the members of Team Charleston are among the greatest generations in American history.

Team Charleston has proven once again we are not only on time every time, but also trained and ready. The result is Team Charleston does it right the first time. We are doing more, doing it safer, doing it faster and doing it better than ever before!

Check six! It's not just us wearing the uniform, but also our civilian counterparts as well as the real heroes ... our families.

It is the families and friends we leave behind who support us, in a quiet way, every day. Thank these unsung heroes at every opportunity.

Think about the times you were deployed and received a package or note from a spouses group, friends or family. Our families reach out and touch so many deployed airmen just to bring a smile.

What's next? The unlimited liability stakes of our mission ask us to put our lives on the line, if necessary, to defend our nation and its values.

The global war on terrorism demands we continue to commit ourselves to making whatever sacrifices are needed to help our team win.

We are all members of the world's finest airlift team. Work hard, play hard and stay physically fit so you are ready when it's time to execute at the tip of the spear!

Dispatch

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Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 437th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Deadlines

The deadline for submitting stories for space-available publication is prior to noon of the Friday preceeding

the desired publication date. The *Airlift Dispatch* staff reserves the right to edit all copy submitted for publication.

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Editorial content is provided and edited by the 437th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 1600, Rm. 224. Phone: (843) 963-5608, Fax: (843) 963-5604

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NEWS

ADOS airman claims Levitow

Staff Sgt. Alexandra Melenciano, 437th Aeromedical Dental Operations Squadron, earned the Sgt. John L. Levitow Award during Airman Leadership Class 03-H and was presented with the honor at the ALS graduation dinner Oct. 16 at the Charleston Club.

Senior Airman Thomas Stasik, 437th Operations Group, received the Academic Achievement Award. He was also recognized as one of the Distinguished Graduate Award recipients.

Staff Sgt. Brandon Townsend, 437th Security Forces Squadron, and Senior Airman Shannon Durham, Air Force Combat Climatology Center, Asheville, N.C., were named Distinguished Graduate Award recipients as well.

Staff Sgt. Sean Lambert, 437th Aerial Port Squadron, earned the Leadership Award.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray was the guest speaker.

Graduates from the five-week course also include the following:

■ 1st Combat Camera Squadron: Senior Airman Joann Makinano

■ 14th Airlift Squadron: Senior Airman Richard Mras

■ 15th Airlift Squadron: Senior Airman Humberto Camara

■ 437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron: Staff Sergeants Matthew

Giblin and Cory Pierce, Senior Airmen Matthew Ancell, Scott Chester, Shawn Collier, Gwen Giles and Damon Webb

■ 437th Aerial Port Squadron: Senior Airman Timothy Abiera

■ 437th Airlift Wing Staff: Senior Airman Jennifer O'Connor

■ 437th Civil Engineer Squadron: Staff Sgt. Joshua Wilson and Senior Airman Jesus Palacios

■ 437th Communications Squadron: Staff Sergeants Justen Harris and Amos Hoskins, and Senior Airman Aaron Martinas

■ 437th Logistics Readiness Squadron: Staff Sgt. Latasha Hale and Senior Airmen Anthony Pope and Daniel St. George

■ 437th Medical Operations Squadron: Staff Sgt. Angela Barr

■ 437th Medical Support Squadron: Senior Airman Walter Guillen

■ 437th Maintenance Squadron: Senior Airmen Scotty McCormick and Jason Riggs

■ 437 SFS: Staff Sergeants John Matecki, Shawn Ackerman, Franklin Spigner, Antoine Parham, and Senior Airmen James McBride and Sabrina Witt

■ 437th Services Squadron: Senior Airman Marcie Ireland

(Information provided by the Airman Leadership School.)

Money falls from the sky

Base tops Combined Federal Campaign goal as pledges come down in a C-17

Monetary donations appeared out of the blue, magically falling from the sky.

Literally.

As this year's Combined Federal Campaign was coming to a close, Charleston AFB was still short of its projected goal of \$200,000. But in the nick of time, a C-17 full of members from the 16th Airlift Squadron returning from a lengthy deployment came down from the sky Oct. 16. In their pockets were completed pledge forms that came to a total that exceeded the base's goal and then some.

More than \$226,000 was raised by Team Charleston for the CFC drive, which ran from Sept. 5 through Oct. 17. The money raised will go to charities worldwide.

"I think the highlight of this year's campaign came in the last week," said Chaplain (Maj.) James Tims, a base chaplain and the project officer for the 2003 Charleston AFB CFC drive. "We were still short of our goal. We knew many deployed members were returning and probably ready for some much needed rest, but we had no idea they were bringing with them completed CFC pledge forms. (The 16 AS members') contributions were the key to putting us over the top – way over the top. It was just one of those 'Hallelujah' moments!"

"I'd like to thank each and every person who donated to the Combined Federal Campaign," said Chaplain Tims. "The outstanding support received proves once again that Charleston AFB truly cares for our neighbors and our fellow man. The great team of volunteers who were unit representatives made completely sure every person on Charleston had a chance to give to those in need. The CFC drive epitomizes that the people from this base absolutely care."

Do it yourself omelet

Airman 1st Class Justin Diaz-Feleices, 437th Services Squadron, picks his ingredients from the new omelet bar at the Gaylor Dining Facility. The omelet bar is the newest addition to the dining hall's breakfast menu. Airman can now pick their omelet ingredients before they get to the cooking grill. The new bar makes getting omelets in the morning quick and easy. The breakfast hours at the dining facility are from 5:30 to 8 a.m. Sundays through Saturdays.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jason Bailey

16 AS warriors return from deployment

By 2nd Lt. Bryan Lewis
437AW Public Affairs

Fittingly, at 1616 hours Oct. 16 a C-17 flew high over the flightline carrying members of the 16th Airlift Squadron returning from Rhein Main AB, Germany.

The squadron was deployed for more than 100 days as the 817th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

The 817 EAS airlifted more than 40,000 short tons of cargo and more than 21,000 troops during its deployment.

This success did not come without sacrifice.

"Two things come to mind when thinking of the hardest part of this deployment. First, working 12-16 hours a day for over 100 days straight was challenging," said Lt. Col. Randy Witham, 16 AS director of operations. "Second, being separated from family and friends is never easy."

While it was hard on the service members to be away from their families, it was also hard for the families to see their spouses or parents leave for more than three months.

"It is good to know my dad is helping other people in other countries," said Elena Witham, daughter of Colonel Witham. "It has been hard without him. I get to help Mom out more. But, I am really excited to see him. I missed him a lot."

Families and friends of the 16 AS gathered for their return on the flightline armed with posters and balloons welcoming them home.

"It is a huge sacrifice being away from my husband," said Sarah Baldoni, wife of Staff Sgt. Eric Baldoni, 16 AS loadmaster. "You don't always know why, but it is for the good of our country."

Mrs. Baldoni set up a table with pictures of her husband and a speaker phone for her 15-month-old daughter, Alexa, to be able to speak to her daddy while he was gone.

"We were able to call and e-mail while Eric was gone," she continued. "I am glad for that. This



Photos by Airman 1st Class Jason Bailey

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Crippin, 16 AS loadmaster, receives a hug from her son, Jeremy and his friends, Jimmie and Samantha after her return from deployment.

celebration today is good for morale, and I am thankful. However, I just can't wait to take my husband home."

Though families could not wait to be reunited after a long time apart, the 16 AS did not forget their duty.

As the squadron exited the plane toward their families, "Retreat" played and each member went to attention, while families turned to face the colors their husbands, wives, moms, and dads proudly serve.



Members of the 16 AS salute the Colors as "The Star-Spangled Banner" is played. "Retreat" was played as the squadron exited the plane after returning from their deployment.



Capt. Scott Carroll, 16 AS pilot, places his hat on his son, Jarren, after returning from more than a 100 days deployed.

NEWS

Charleston AFB Honor Guard helps bring closure to family after 35 years

By Airman 1st Class Stephanie Hammer
437 AW Public Affairs

All gave some.

But over the jungles of South Vietnam, he gave all.

And 35 years later, Staff Sgt. Elmer "Larry" Holden finally returned home to his family.

The HH-3E "Jolly Green 23" helicopter flight engineer was listed as killed in action/body not recovered since June 9, 1968, after his helicopter exploded over the Laos-South Vietnam border. His helicopter was struck by enemy fire during a search-and-rescue mission for a downed U.S. pilot.

"We've been through quite a lot all these years, wondering if they'd ever find him," said Judy Holden Freeman, Sergeant Holden's widow. "Even though they gave us a death certificate, we still wondered if he was really gone or if he was captured. I'm relieved to know he did die. I know that sounds terrible, but I wouldn't have wanted him to suffer or be tortured. He just wouldn't have been the same."

Sergeant Holden's remains were found and identified through his dental records Sept. 29 by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command's Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii, and returned to his family for burial with full military honors Oct. 11.

"It's very impressive. They're just doing marvelous work over there (in Hawaii)," said Mrs. Freeman. "They identify the remains of approximately two servicemembers a week. To some it might seem like a low number, but it's really a miracle they can identify anyone."

"I'm just thankful the Vietnamese government has assisted in researching these crash sites," she continued. "The teams go over there and bring these men and women home, and it's just wonderful."

The military honors at the interment of Sergeant Holden were performed by the Charleston AFB Honor Guard. The ceremony concluded with the flyover of an HH-60 Pavehawk helicopter trailing a stream of green smoke, which represented Sergeant Holden's helicopter's nickname, "Jolly Green



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephanie Hammer

Tina Holden Joyner, Judy Holden Freeman and Stephanie Holden DeLoach hold photos of their loved one, Staff Sgt. Elmer "Larry" Holden. Sergeant Holden was reported killed in action/body not recovered since June 9, 1968. His remains were identified through his dental records Sept. 29, 35 years after his helicopter was shot down over Vietnam. He was buried with full military honors Oct. 11.

Giant," according to Chief Master Sgt. Dennis Richardson, a member of the New York Air National Guard who served with Sergeant Holden in Vietnam.

"It made me proud to see (the honor guard) there," said Mrs. Freeman. "It takes a special person to volunteer to do that. They helped bring closure to us, and Larry would have been very honored. He always said he was coming back."

And he did. Sergeant Holden, who was 24 at the time of his death, was buried in Hampton, S.C., where his family could be close to him.

"We're not here to grieve," Terrell Harvey, pastor of the Primitive Baptist Church in North Charleston and a cousin to the family, told family and friends at Sergeant Holden's interment. "I think the sorrow and grief occurred years ago when the notification came back to the family that he was missing in action, and his helicopter went down."

"We are here to honor a veteran," he continued. "We are here to honor a hero; a man

who sacrificed his own life for others."

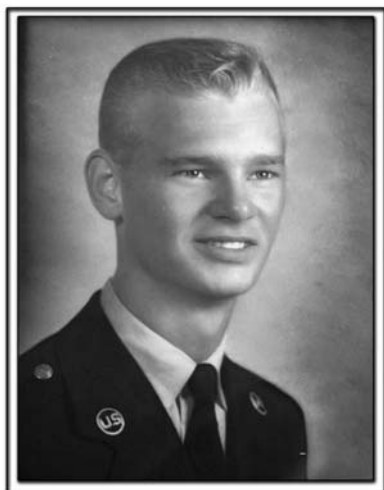
Mrs. Freeman married Sergeant Holden, a native of Oklahoma City, Sept. 15, 1962, at the age of 15.

"He came home with my brother one evening, but I didn't pay him any attention," she said. "So, about every six months he'd come by until finally my daddy decided that, if he was that persistent, it would be OK to go out on a date."

"Then Larry decided he wanted to join the service, and he didn't say anything to anybody about it," she continued. "He just went to his mother one day and told her he had enlisted and needed her to sign the paperwork for him because he wasn't but 17. So she did, and his sister helped him fill out the paperwork. He called me on the telephone to tell me he had enlisted, and I thought he was crazy."

Sergeant Holden began his Air Force service Oct. 2, 1961, a year before they married. He was a mechanic at Travis AFB, Calif., when he made the decision to cross train to a flight engineer on an HH-3E helicopter.

"He always wanted to fly," said Mrs. Freeman. "I think that's every little boy's dream ... to fly. He knew the possibilities of going



Courtesy Photo

(to Vietnam) would be great once he cross trained, but it meant the world to him to get into the helicopters. It was just something he felt like he had to do. When he got his orders (to Vietnam), he had mixed emotions about it but never complained. It was hard for him to leave; he loved his family. But, he knew he had a job to do, and he was proud to go do it."

Sergeant Holden boarded a plane for Vietnam Sept. 29, 1967. That's the last time Mrs. Freeman saw her blond-haired husband with "vivid blue eyes."

Sergeant Holden had been in Vietnam for nine months when his helicopter was shot down. At the time of his death, he was the highest-decorated staff sergeant from the state of Oklahoma.

Some of his decorations include the Silver Star with one oak-leaf cluster, the Distinguished Flying Cross with three oak-leaf clusters, the Purple Heart and the Air Medal with one silver oak-leaf cluster. His family was presented with the POW/MIA Medal by U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond in 1983.

"No one who has participated in a combat rescue has failed to be impressed by the incredible courage of the Jolly Green crews," said retired Brig. Gen. Thomas Pilsch, a forward air controller during Vietnam, who was airborne over the Laos valley the day Sergeant Holden died. "The most incredible thing is they did it day after day, knowing what was waiting for them, knowing the odds were stacked against them, because someone was depending on them. Their motivation is summarized by the United States Air Force pararescue motto: these things we do – that others may live. They all were heroes and had the respect of every flyer in the Vietnam War. Elmer Holden was a hero that day, too."

"Larry was the truest of real American

BRIAN C. WINNER • WILLIAM C. AHOUSE • ERIC A. ANDERSON • JAMES O. ASHTON • STEPHEN E. AUSTIN
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Courtesy Photo

"He died trying to save another human being from death, and there can be no greater love."

Douglas Joseph McGill, Jr.
retired pararescue

heroes who always considered the feelings of others, put people first and loved his fellow man," added Douglas Joseph McGill, Jr., retired pararescue and Sergeant Holden's friend. "He died trying to save another human being from death, and there can be no greater love."

"I feel privileged to have been associated with Larry and blessed to be able to call him my friend," he continued. "He was a fun-loving man who loved to play practical jokes on people and tried to get a smile from everyone he flew with. He always seemed to bring sunshine into a room. I can still see him playing around, joking and being silly. He calmed everyone who was worried about their plight of being in a war-time situation and was loved by all who served with him."

Although the military was unable to recover Sergeant Holden's body, a memorial service was held for him at Tinker AFB, Okla., but Mrs. Freeman said she and Sergeant Holden's two daughters, Stephanie Holden DeLoach and Tina Holden Joyner, who were only 2 and 4 at the time of their father's death, lacked a certain amount of closure.

Two years after Sergeant Holden's helicopter was shot down, Mrs. Freeman married Hampton native Billy Freeman. They met while Mr. Freeman was stationed at Tinker AFB and soon moved back to Hampton.

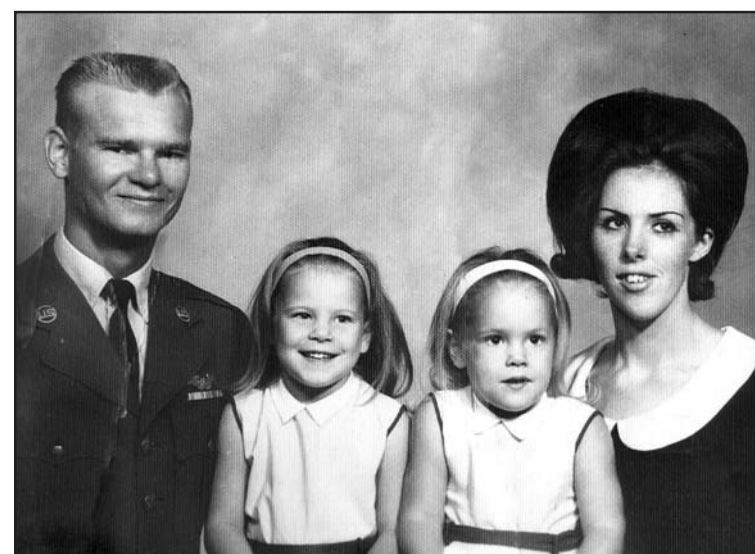
"Larry and I never wanted to stay in Oklahoma, not that we didn't love where we came from," said Mrs. Freeman. "But we always liked to travel, and we wanted to settle at Pensacola Beach when he retired. We wanted to stay South; we didn't want to go anywhere else. So, I got as close to it as I could."

"And I could not have married into a better family," she continued. "The girls had a wonderful father, but Billy (Freeman) has been a daddy to them all these years. We've been very fortunate and very blessed."

Through the years, Sergeant Holden's memory remained alive in the hearts of his family with stories Mrs. Freeman shared about him with their daughters. She still keeps photo albums available for them and Sergeant Holden's seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren to look over.

Mrs. Freeman has flown a POW/MIA flag in front of her house in remembrance of her first husband and others still missing in action. Approximately 1,800 Americans are still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, with 88,000 missing from all conflicts.

"I'll keep this flag flying until all of those lost servicemen can come home," she said. "We never forgot Larry, and we're just glad to have him home, where he belongs."



Courtesy photo

Top: Staff Sgt. Holden, his daughters Stephanie, 4, and Tina, 2, and his wife Judy just before he left for Vietnam.

Left: Airmen 1st Class Trevis Humphrey, 437th Airlift Wing Honor Guard, finishes folding the flag from Sergeant Holden's casket before it's presented to his widow. Sergeant Holden was buried with full military honors.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Jason Bailey

NEWS BRIEFS

Spotlight

Retirement: The 437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Chief Master Sgt. David Champagne at 10 a.m. today at the Charleston Club. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Lawrence Strother at 963-4591, or Staff Sgt. Diamond Cookson at 963-7088.

Retirement: The 437th Maintenance Group is hosting a retirement ceremony for Col. Tommy Hixon at 2:30 p.m. today at the Charleston Club. For more information, call Capt. Sara Scivally at 963-2543.

Retirement: The 437th Mission Support Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Ken Gilmore at 3 p.m. today at the Family Support Center. For more information, call the FSC at 963-5448, or 963-4406.

Retirement: The 15th Airlift Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Senior Master Sgt. Byron Pitcher at 12:30 p.m. today at the 15 AS auditorium. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Tony Helton at 963-2726, or 963-2282.

Around the base

Medical Group: The 437th Medical Group will be minimally manned today due to readiness training.

Math CLEP: There is a free math College Level Examination Program preparatory class at the Community Education Center Monday through Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The class will be followed by the CLEP College Mathematics exam Oct. 30. Those who pass the test will be awarded the CCAF

Charleston Warrior of the Week

Staff Sgt. Tony Rice

14th Airlift Squadron

Staff Sgt. Tony Rice is a personnel specialist for the 14th Airlift Squadron.

He is responsible for the personnel programs in the squadron, including weight management, unfavorable information files, government card programs and more.

Sergeant Rice said the best thing about his job is that he gets to interact with a lot of people.

Sergeant Rice joined the Air Force to be able to travel and for the experience. Sergeant Rice has been in the Air Force for seven years and stationed at Charleston for 2.5 years.

"I'm from Spartanburg, S.C.," said Sergeant Rice. "[Charleston] is great, and there is a lot of culture and history here.

Sergeant Rice's goals are to earn his Community College of the Air Force degree, learn more about computers, and retire from the Air Force.

In his off-duty time, Sergeant Rice likes to spend time with his daughter, Simone who is 3 years old, lift weights and watch sports.



Photo by Andre Bullard

credit for the math requirement. All interested must sign up for the class at the CEC in person no later than noon today.

ESC: The next Enlisted Spouses Club event is at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Oscar's Restaurant in Summerville. The club will also see the Scarecrows in the Square contest in Summerville. For more information, visit <http://www.geocities.com/charlestonesc>.

PAX terminal: The Passenger Terminal will undergo major renovations through the next eight months. There will be a temporary

entrance and exit located at the far right of the building. There will be no interruption of services for space-available travel.

X-ray candy: The Passenger Terminal will X-ray candy for free from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 31.

Fall festival: The Base Chapel is hosting a fall festival from 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 31.

AFSA: The next Air Force Sergeant's Association meeting is 11 a.m. Nov. 6 at the Charleston club. The guest speaker is Chief Master Sgt. John McCauslin, AFSA headquarters international trustee for retiree/veteran affairs. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. John Danko at 963-4590, or visit <http://www.afsahq.org>.

Parenting: Family Advocacy is having a free Common Sense Parenting class from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for six consecutive Tuesdays beginning Nov. 12. For more infor-

mation or to register, call Jim Hernandez at 963-6504.

Fitness: The Fitness and Sports Center is offering a new body-sculpting fitness class from 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Body sculpting brings the weight room into the aerobics room. For more information, call the fitness center at 963-3347.

MSS: The Mission Support Squadron will be closed from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 17 for an annual Thanksgiving Dinner. For more information, call Capt. Adrian Hageman at 963-4539.

Overpricing: The Zero Overpricing Program's goal is to eliminate overpricing incidents where the Air Force pays more for an item than it's worth. Monetary awards are also available through the Air Force Suggestion Program when an overpricing incident is identified and approved. To report an overpricing incident, call the wing Zero Overpricing Monitor at 963-4826.

To submit information considered for News briefs, send an e-mail to dispatch@charleston.af.mil with subject: **NEWS BRIEFS**; or send a fax to **963-5604**, ATTN: **NEWS BRIEFS**. Submissions must be received no later than close of business Friday the week before publication.

AROUND THE AIR FORCE

Air Force releases fitness standards

WASHINGTON – Air Force leaders released the fitness-scoring charts that will be used beginning Jan. 1.

"The amount of energy we devote to our fitness programs is not consistent with the growing demands of our warrior culture. It's time to change that," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper in a Sight Picture released in July, explaining the rationale behind the change.

Officials said the fitness score will include four components: crunches, push-ups, an abdominal circumference measurement and the 1.5-mile timed run. People who are not medically cleared to run will continue to take the bike test. The component scores are then added to get a composite fitness score and determine if the person falls into the excellent, good, marginal or poor category. The charts are available online at www.af.mil/news/USAF_Fitness_Charts.pdf. Fitness categories will determine how often a person must retest. For instance, a composite score of 70 to 74.9 places the person in the marginally fit category. This designation requires retesting at six-month intervals. A score of less than 70 places a person in the poorly fit category. That score requires a retest every three months. People at the marginal and poor levels also will participate in educational programs.

Air Force leaders encourage commanders to recognize people who attain an excellent fitness level or make substantial improvement.

"The focus of the new fitness program is not the assessment. The program is about integrating fitness into our culture and our members adopting fitness as a way of life," said Maj. Lisa Schmidt, the Air Force Surgeon General chief of health promotion operations.

Officials are finalizing the instruction related to the program and plan to publish it by January. It will address unit physical training, testing procedures and programs to facilitate improvement, they said.

The Air Force has established an e-mail account for comments at fitness.program@pentagon.af.mil. **(Air Force Print News)**

Air Force plans to fill first sergeant slots

WASHINGTON – Before the end of the year, Air Force officials will have taken the first step toward eliminating a 10-percent manning shortfall in first sergeant billets.

In November, as part of the new First Sergeant Selection Process, Air Force officials expect to release a list of master sergeants selected as candidates for first sergeant special duty, said Senior Master Sgt. Chris Anthony, first sergeant special-duty manager at the Pentagon.

Those selected under the new process will account for nearly 33 percent of graduates from the First Sergeant Academy at Maxwell AFB, Ala., Sergeant Anthony said. They will begin attending the school in May.

"That one-third is not an arbitrary number," Sergeant Anthony said. "It is based on volunteer rates. Over the last year or so, the volunteers only filled about two-thirds of our requirements."

The Air Force requirement for new first sergeants is reflected in the number of slots allocated in the First Sergeant Academy each year — a little more than 300. Sergeant

Anthony said declining numbers of first sergeant volunteers left more than 100 empty desks at the school last year.

"First sergeant manning and decreasing class enrollments at the First Sergeant Academy have become a concern," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray. "Since the beginning of 2000, first sergeant manning has steadily decreased from 96 to 89 percent, while the rank structure has become significantly imbalanced. I believe anything less than 100-percent manning is unacceptable to properly lead and care for our enlisted force."

The prevalence of those empty enlisted leadership positions is one reason the Air Force moved toward selecting some first sergeants, Sergeant Anthony said.

"First sergeant is a special duty," Sergeant Anthony said. "But it is also a leadership position. We don't have vacant squadron commander positions in the Air Force. If somebody doesn't volunteer to go be a commander, then the Air Force selects somebody. We do the same thing with command chiefs. Now we will do it with first sergeants." **(Air Force Print News.)**

Officials halt certain blood donations

WASHINGTON – A parasitic disease being spread by sand flies in Iraq has prompted officials who oversee the military's blood supply to implement a one-year donor deferral for military people serving in that country.

The reason for the deferral is a form of the disease Leishmaniasis which causes sores or lesions on the skin, and which in its most serious form can cause death.

Since 2002, military health officials have reported 22 cases of the disease, with the majority being reported this year.

Lt. Col. Ruth Sylvester, director of the armed services blood program office, said the military has plenty of eligible donors to draw from, and she encouraged military and Department of Defense employees, as well as family members, to donate blood on a regular basis by scheduling appointments with local DOD donor centers. Where the DOD does not have donor centers, she encourages donations to local civilian agencies. **(Air Force Print News)**

Photo of the Week



Photo by Airman 1st Class Nichole Adamowicz

Silver Flag

Silver Flag exercise participants at Ramstein AB, Germany, process through a contamination control area after a simulated chemical attack during a portion of the exercise Sunday. Previous exercises included only civil engineer and services airmen.

WELLNESS TIP**Up in Smoke**

- Tobacco use is a lifestyle choice that annually accounts for 20 percent of all U.S. deaths!
- Each year more than 440,000 Americans die prematurely because of tobacco use
- More than 70,000 people in the Air Force use tobacco products
- A Defense Department study identified tobacco use as a possible contributor in Operation Iraqi Freedom pneumonia deaths
- The first 72 hours tobacco-free are the hardest; most people need seven attempts to be successful
- Each base has a Health and Wellness Center that can help Air Force members kick the tobacco habit



Graphic by Sean Erbe

Chapel schedule

107 Arthur Drive
Office: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Phone: 963-2536.

After duty hours, call the command post at 963-2531 for emergencies only.

Catholic Services: *Saturday* - 4:15 p.m.

Reconciliation, 5 p.m. Mass. Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Mass, 9:30 a.m. Children's Church. Sacrament of Baptism pre-baptismal classes are held the first Sunday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Chapel Annex. Daily Mass is canceled until April 2004.

Protestant Services: *Sunday* - 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School, Bldg. 245, 11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service and 11 a.m. Children's Church. *Sunday* - 5 p.m. Contemporary Worship Service.

For information on other faith groups, call the Base Chapel at 963-2536.

Movie schedule

Admission: 99 cents for adults and children.

Any person under 17 years of age requires a parent or adult guardian (a minimum of 21 years old) to purchase an admission ticket for the minor to view R-rated movies. The ticket office opens 30 minutes prior to the start of the movie, unless otherwise noted.

Movie schedules are provided by AAFES.



Patrons should call 963-3333 to verify movie titles, running times and start times, which are subject to change.

Today, 7:30 p.m.

"Cold Creek Manor" – Dennis Quaid

The Tilsons and their kids move to a house in the country, but their idyllic family life is threatened when Dale reveals there's more to the house than meets the eye. It begins to seem the original owners were brutally murdered. **(R) 110 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

"Matchstick Men" – Nicolas Cage

Phobia-addled con artist Roy and his protege' Frank are on the verge of pulling off a lucrative swindle when the unexpected arrival of Roy's teenage daughter Angela disrupts his carefully ordered life and jeopardizes his high-risk scam. **(PG-13) 115 minutes**

Oct. 31, 7:30 p.m.

"The Order" – Heath Ledger

A conflicted, rebellious priest travels to Rome to investigate the strange death of his mentor. The young priest, a troubled artist and his closest friend discover the mysterious death may be the work of the Sin Eater, an ancient figure who plays God on earth by absolving the unforgivable of their sins. **(R) 110 minutes**

SPORTS & FITNESS



Ready to run

Col. Brooks Bash, 437th Airlift Wing commander, leads the wing in the Monster Bash Fun Run Tuesday. Each month Colonel Bash leads a 5K run in order to promote fitness and base comraderie. The next run will be the Turkey Trot Fun Run Nov. 21.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Jason Bailey

Swami picks — Skyking soars to victory in Week 7

By the Gridiron Guru
'Better than ever' pigskin prognosticator

After all the dust settled in Week 7 action, Lawrence "Skyking" Strother stood alone at the front of the pack with a very impressive record of 11-3. The Guru had to re-check his entry sheet several times for hanging chads wondering how a guy that is always talking smack about the Cowboys and Bengals playing in the Super Bowl could actually win!

"Stro" beat out Todd Bellamy "Brothers" and William "Bonsai" Bonser. Be sure to stop by Public Affairs to pick up your prizes.

Several teams share this week's Stink Out Loud Award, headed up by the Oakland Faders. This team should play much better considering all the veterans on their roster; unfortunately, most of them are veterans of World War II!

Next are the Cleveland Clowns, who allowed the San Diego Chargers to beat them for their first win of the season. The only way the

Browns can gain yardage is to watch the game films backward.

You have come to count on the Guru for breaking news from around the league, so I will now report on a developing story concerning the Washington Redskins. They are claiming their playbooks were stolen by the Buffalo Bills prior to the game. Redskins players and coaches were extremely upset by this because they hadn't finished coloring them yet.

Week 7 saw several people enter the hall of shame led by Ben "Speedy" Gonzales who was slowed down by many speed bumps on the way to an embarrassing record of 4-10. Jeffery "out of" Stockdale shares Ben's misery with an equally bad 4-10 mark. I also must mention Michael "non knowin'" Blouin, Ronald "McDonald" Desautels and Marty Parnell who were clueless enough to think the Faders could beat the undefeated Chiefs! Now on to my Week 9, stone-cold, steel-pipe locks!

Gridiron Guru's Week 9 picks

Sunday, Oct. 26

Carolina @ Houston
Jacksonville @ **Baltimore**
N.Y. Giants @ N.Y. Jets
San Diego @ Chicago
Pittsburgh @ **Seattle**
St. Louis @ San Francisco
Green Bay @ **Minnesota**

Indianapolis @ Miami
New Orleans @ **Tampa Bay**
Oakland @ Detroit
Cincinnati @ **Arizona**
Philadelphia @ Atlanta
Washington @ **Dallas**
Monday, Oct. 27
New England @ **Denver**

Monday Night total points: ____
Guru's Monday night points: 48

The Gridiron Guru's picks are in bold and italics.
Send your picks to swami@charleston.af.mil only.
Include your name, phone number, and any comments in the e-mail.
Picks can no longer be dropped off at the Public Affairs Office.
Picks must be submitted by Friday, Oct. 24, 4 p.m.

Clash at the top

AMXS loses in close game to MXS 14-13

By 2nd Lt. Bryan Lewis
437AW Public Affairs

The Maintenance Squadron defeated the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron 14-13 in base intramural football action Oct. 16, bringing AMXS's undefeated record to an end.

AMXS opened their first drive with a 30-yard pass to wide receiver Andrew Joyner followed by a pass to wide receiver Kwame Felton moving AMXS into MXS territory.

Three quarterback sneaks and a three-yard pass later, AMXS struck first, making the score 7-0.

On its first possession, MXS began with a no-gain run up the middle. After the failed run, quarterback Bob Bryan went to the air with a 25-yard pass to wide receiver Derrick Sochor.

The defense of AMXS held by stopping two more run attempts and a pass attempt, forcing MXS to punt.

"Our defense played well overall, and our offense was moving the ball very well," said Josh Bettinger, AMXS cornerback.

AMXS showed how dangerous it was after the catch with a 40-yard catch and run play scoring their second touchdown. However, due to an inadvertent whistle, the play would come back.

The MXS defense responded to the AMXS offensive attack.

AMXS quarterback Matthew Morrison drove his team down to the red zone with three passes. With first-and-goal, Morrison was sacked by Theron Florence for a 10-yard loss.

MXS would hold on the next three plays, causing an incomplete pass and blocking a field goal attempt leaving the score 7-0 at the half.

Opening the second half, MXS tightened the AMXS defense with two runs for a gain of 12 yards.

Having the AMXS defense playing close, Bryan went to the air with three consecutive passes ending with a touchdown by wide receiver Antonio Waller tying the score at 7.

AMXS responded with two runs by running back Johnny Wright for a total gain of 55 yards, followed by a touchdown catch by wide receiver Thomas Cole.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Amy Perry

MXS wide receiver Antonio Waller makes a leaping catch after a deep pass from Bob Bryan in their game versus AMXS. MXS won the game 14-13, giving AMXS their first loss this season.

AMXS would miss the point-after touchdown, making the score 13-7.

MXS acted quickly with a 26-yard run by Waller and two long passes by Bryan that put MXS in the end zone. MXS hit the PAT making the score 14-13.

"In the second half, our offense finally put some drives together that ended with touchdown passes," said Michael Jackson, MXS linebacker. "We finally came together."

With just over two minutes remaining, AMXS started its final drive. Morrison connected for two passes, bringing AMXS into MXS territory. MXS stepped up on the third pass attempt by intercepting a screen pass.

"Our mental errors really hurt us tremendously," said Bettinger. "We were moving the ball very well against a great defense and got away from that at the end of the game."

After the interception, the AMXS defense brought MXS to a third down with enough time remaining for one last drive. However, two unsportsmanlike calls on AMXS would keep the ball in MXS's hands and bring AMXS's hopes of remaining undefeated to a halt.



AMXS running back Andrew Joyner sprints to avoid MXS defenders during a base flag football game Oct. 16. Games are played Tuesday through Thursday nights from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Hurricane Field.